

- 3/2 DCI
- (c) subdividing the organic-based feed stream into a plurality of smaller fluid streams by passing the organic-based feed stream through the plurality of flow passageways defined by the plurality of openings prior to the organic-based feed stream contacting a catalyst bed in the chemical reactor.

Please add claims 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52:

5/23 DCI

48. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including the step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a size of 0.5 inches to 3 inches.

49. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including the step of packing the ceramic filter units into the chemical reactor with a packing factor of about 200 to 500 ft²/ft³.

50. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including the step of packing the ceramic filter units in graduated layers into the chemical reactor with each layer having a different packing factor of about 200 to 500 ft²/ft³.

51. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including the step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a fluted surface.

52. The method of fluid distribution of claim 47, including the step of utilizing ceramic filter units having a polygonal cross-sectional configuration having a plurality of sides, the configuration selected from the group consisting of triangles, quadrilaterals, squares, rectangles, pentagons, hexagons, heptagons, and octagons.

THE REJECTIONS

Claims 46 and 47 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German patent DE 35 39 195 to Hung, et al (hereafter the "Hung Patent").

THE REFERENCE

The Hung patent (page and line numbers refer to the English language translation) "concerns hydroprocessing or hydrotreatment catalyzers which... comprise extrudates with a cross-section that is oval and has two holes therein." (p.2, ll. 1-4). The catalyzers have openings therein "which are circular or oval" (p. 9, ll. 6-7), with "oval" being defined as shapes with two areas of relatively great curvature separated by two areas with relatively less curvature should also be comprised therein." (p. 8, ll. 15, 16-18).